

“Dealing With Legalists”
Matthew 15: 1-20

October 30, 2022

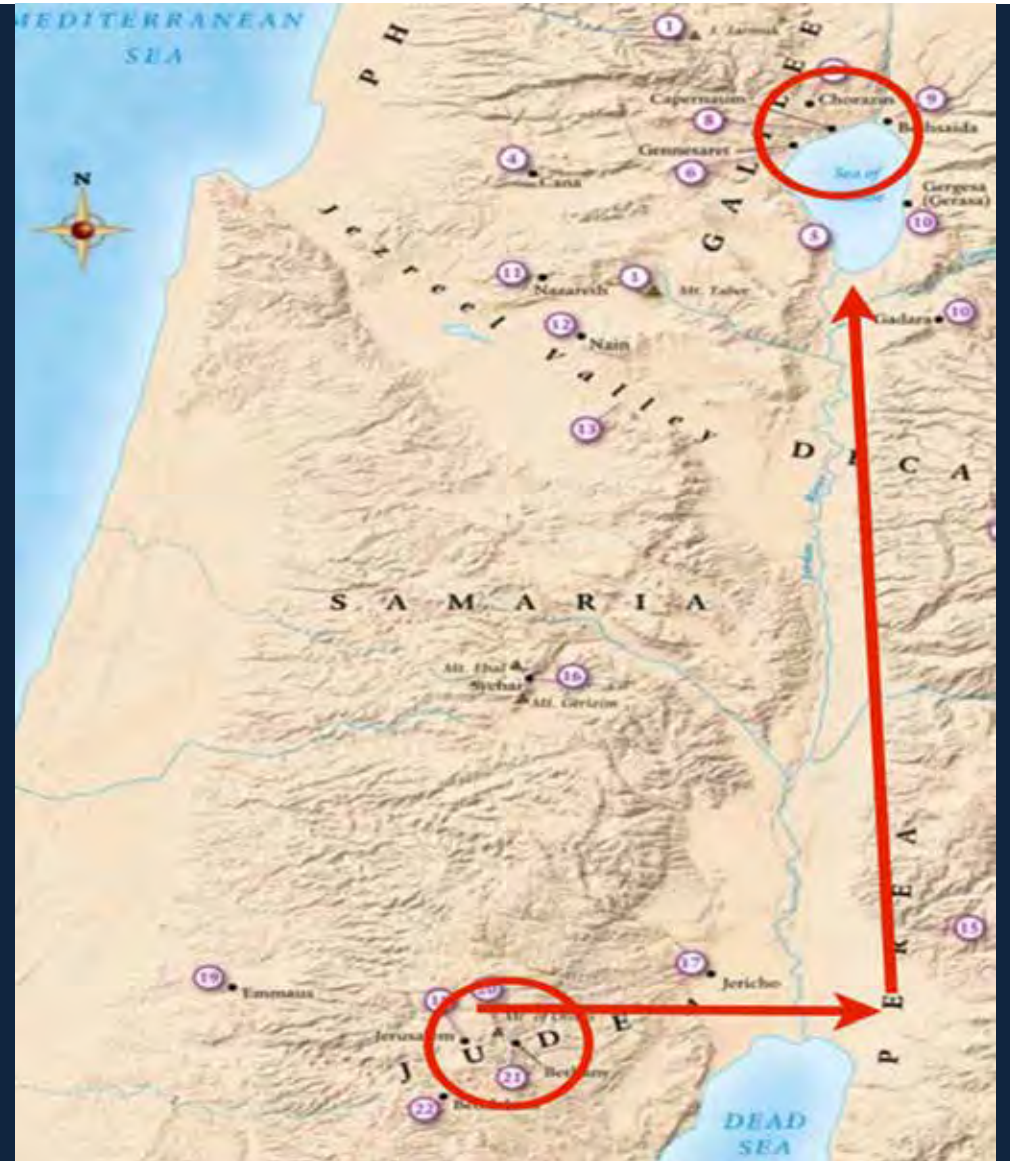
Verse 1 - 2

The Legalists question Jesus

When you think Pharisee, think angry, rigid, legalist



Pharisees were
dispatched
from Jerusalem
when someone
claimed to be
Messiah



Many, today, claim to be Messiah; all are pathetic shams!



There will be a sham Messiah coming – the antichrist

2 Thessalonians tells us about this charlatan

Why he comes to power?

The Restrainer is removed (think Rapture!)

How does he come to power?

The working of Satan

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Verse 3 - 9

Jesus questions the Legalists

The purpose of the Law is to point us to Christ
Galatians 3: 24

No one can perfectly obey all the
commandments

To make law keeping even more difficult, **James**
adds, break one and you break them all!

James 2: 10













Trying to keep the Law to be righteous is
IMPOSSIBLE!!

**The legalists' goal is about looks; *look religious,
look spiritual***

God is all about your heart!

**Real worship is our heart to God's heart, **our
spirit to God's Spirit****

**Your tradition will determine your comfort with
worship styles**

LEVEL ↓	NON-DENOMINATIONAL GUIDE TO OFFICIAL WORSHIP SIGNALS		
ROOKIE	 ELBOW FLAP	 CARRY THE TV	 GO BIGSCREEN
INTER-MEDIATE	 MY FISH WAS THIS BIG	 HOLD MY BABY	 MUFASA
PRO	 DUELING LIGHTBULBS	 GOALPOSTS + HEARTBURN	 POINTER HATCHET SCHOOL ROOM
EXPERT WARNING: BAPTISTS DO NOT ATTEMPT	 VILLAGE PEOPLE	 ROCKY	 TOUCHDOWN

Verse 10 - 11

Jesus exposes the Legalists

Defile = to make unholy, unclean, polluted

Being right with God is not about external rules and regulations

It is about the **HEART!!**

Verse 12 - 14

Legalists are blind to the truth

Jesus tells us how to deal with a pharisee: *Speak the truth to dispel the lie!*

The phony and the fakers are offended by the truth

SETTLE IT!

You will not be popular; you will offend with the truth; you will be called names; you may be persecuted; you may be hated by your own family

This is not cheery to think about – ***it will cost you to follow Jesus!***

Jesus speaks the truth, *and so must we!*

Verse 15 – 20

The Legalists' heart is revealed

What comes out of the mouth reveals the heart!

SCARY!!

You do not, *must not*, speak all that you are thinking - **Proverbs 29: 11**

The awful things that are a product of our fallen nature starts with **evil thoughts**

The background is a dark, almost black, textured surface that resembles a close-up of a human face or a similar organic form. A soft, circular light source is positioned in the center, creating a subtle glow and highlighting the contours of the underlying structure. Overlaid on this background is the text 'THE WORLD, THE FLESH, & THE DEVIL' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: 'THE WORLD,' on the top line, 'THE FLESH,' on the middle line, and '& THE DEVIL' on the bottom line. The ampersand is particularly large and stylized, connecting the two final words. The overall composition is centered and has a dramatic, high-contrast aesthetic.

**THE WORLD,
THE FLESH,
& THE DEVIL**

No matter our level of spiritual maturity, we will still deal with the flesh problem

Remember: *It is direction, not perfection!*

Every believer has the Holy Spirit

Every believer, when faced with a flesh moment, can make a faith choice, and not a flesh choice!

The power to do this is in you!

DO make a faith choice – *you can!*

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Have you ever thought - *am I a legalist?*

HOW TO BECOME A LEGALIST

1. Make rules outside the Bible.
2. Push yourself to try and keep your rules.
3. Castigate yourself when you don't keep your rules.
4. Become proud when you do keep your rules.
5. Appoint yourself as judge over other people.
6. Get angry with people who break your rules or have different rules.
7. "Beat" the losers.

Jesus exposed the traditions of the pharisees
He called them *HYPOCRITES!*
Mask wearers, performers, theatre



We are all guilty of being performers, mask wearers and hypocrites - *uncomfortable?*

Make believers talk like believers, know Christian lingo, *but do not live like believers!*

Remember Jesus' words in verse 8, quoting Isaiah 29: 13:

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.”

“God talk” and **“Jesus speak”** does not make a believer

Jesus is big into:

“You will know them by their fruits”

Matthew 7: 20

To the fruitless, Jesus says,

“Depart from Me I never knew you”

Matthew 7: 23

SCARY!

What has happened to us?

What has happened to America?

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NKJV)

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

Bob Palmer Octavia Baptist Youth
Ministries

VIDEO

How do deceiving spirits look?

2 Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV

- ¹ But know this, that **in the last days** perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ **having a form of godliness** but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Jeremiah 5:30-31
What God Finds Astonishing



“An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power. My people love to have it so, but what will you do in the end?” Jeremiah 5: 30-31

God shows us how to live in these times:

“But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.”

2 Timothy 3: 13-14

We are the people of God!

We are not snowflakes!

We are victors, *OVERCOMERS!!*

We are not victims!

May we live like it!

David, prior to his death, charged his son, Solomon with ***“be strong”*** – **1 Kings 2: 2-3**

“I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God; to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.”

THIS IS OUR TIME TO

“BE STRONG”

“TO KEEP THE CHARGE OF THE LORD”

BE STRONG, FOLKS!

BE STRONG!!

A still life photograph featuring a plate of food on the left and a tray of wine glasses on the right. The background is a textured, golden-brown wall with faint, glowing patterns. The text is overlaid in the center.

THIS DO
IN REMEMBRANCE
OF ME